Biochemical Hypermedia: Galactose Metabolism.

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Introduction: Animations of biochemical processes and virtual laboratory environments lead to true molecular simulations. The use of interactive software's in education can improve cognitive capacity, better learning and, mainly, it makes information acquisition easier. **Material and Methods:** This work presents the development of a biochemical hypermedia to understanding of the galactose metabolism. It was developed with the help of concept maps, ISIS Draw, ADOBE Photoshop and FLASH MX Program. **Results and Discussion:** A step by step animation process shows the enzymatic reactions of galactose conversion to glucose-1-phosphate (to glycogen synthesis), glucose-6-phosphate (glycolysis intermediary), UDP-galactose (substrate to mucopolysaccharides synthesis and collagen's glycosylation). There are navigation guide that allow scrolling the mouse over the names of the components of enzymatic reactions of via the metabolism of galactose. Thus, explanatory text box, chemical structures and animation of the actions of enzymes appear to navigator. Upon completion of the module, the user's response to the proposed exercise can be checked immediately through text box with interactive content of the answer. **Conclusion:** This hypermedia was presented for undergraduate students (UFSC) who revealed that it was extremely effective in promoting the understanding of the theme.

Keywords: galactose metabolism, galactose pathway, biochemical hypermedia.

Supported by: CNPq.